

This email is being sent to all persons who have received a VRAP Certificate of Eligibility but who have not enrolled in classes.

According to our records as of April 1st, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued you a Certificate of Eligibility for VRAP but you are not currently receiving benefits.

What you should know:

A Certificate of Eligibility is NOT a guarantee of benefit payments. By law, VRAP benefits can only be paid to a maximum of 99,000 Veterans. As of April 1, 2013, VA issued over 93,000 Certificates of Eligibility and may continue to issue them through October 1, 2013. As of April 1st, approximately 40,000 Veterans had enrolled in training.

VRAP benefits will be paid on a first-come, first-served basis until the program ends on March 31, 2014 -OR- until 99,000 Veterans have enrolled in school and received VRAP benefits. This means that under current law, if you do not enroll in training before March 31, 2014 OR if you do not enroll in training before VRAP benefits have been paid to the maximum 99,000 Veterans, VA will be unable to pay you VRAP benefits even if you enroll in training.

What you should do:

If you plan on using your VRAP benefit, you should first check with VA to ensure there are available slots remaining. You can verify the number of students enrolled in training online at <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>, or by calling VA at 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

Once you enroll in an approved program, please contact your school's Veterans certifying official immediately so that your enrollment can be verified with VA as soon as possible. You will receive additional correspondence from VA after we receive your enrollment information from your school.

How you will receive payment:

Monthly VRAP benefit payments are paid in arrears. For example, if you begin training in August, you will receive your payment for August at the beginning of September. You will be paid via direct deposit.

Can you receive payment sooner?

You may be eligible for an advance payment for the first month (or part of a month) and second full month of your enrollment IF:

- Your school has agreed to receive and process advance payments, and
- You request advance payment by notifying your school certifying official, and

- VA receives your enrollment certification at least 30 days before classes start.

Note: Advance payments are issued via written check directly to your school on your behalf.

If you do not plan to use VRAP:

It's helpful for VA to know if you do not plan on using your benefits so we have an estimate of approximately how many people will be enrolling. To withdraw from VRAP, please visit the [VRAP website](#) and follow the instructions under the "Withdraw from VRAP" link.

If you have any further questions or need assistance, please call us at 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or contact us through the internet at <https://gibill.custhelp.com>. You can also view a list of frequently asked questions about VRAP on our website at <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>.

I hope that you find this information useful, and I wish you continued success in your educational and employment endeavors.

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Department of Veterans Affairs